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Letter dated 2 May 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention herewith to its position, reiterated several times since November 2004, concerning the composition and command of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI).

Indeed, in light of the events that occurred at the end of last year, my Government considers that the dual command which has prevailed to date at the head of UNOCI may give rise to problems created independently of its will. Such problems will inevitably impair the positive evolution of the situation resulting from the mediation by President Thabo Mbeki.

My Government, therefore, would appreciate it if, within the framework of the renewal of the Operation's mandate, this concern were taken into account in order to preserve and build on the achievements of the Pretoria Agreement.

As I stated during the meeting of the Security Council on 26 April 2005, at which the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Aziz Pahad, presented the Pretoria Agreement to the Council, it appears necessary to us to harmonize the command structures of the impartial forces committed to the maintenance of peace in Africa, in general, and in Côte d'Ivoire, in particular.

Only a single command in charge of these forces can reinforce their impartiality, make their work more understandable for the peoples being assisted in the process of restoring peace and thus create the conditions for greater trust between them and the impartial forces in order to ensure greater support on the part of these peoples for the objectives pursued.

Consequently, my Government believes that the merging of all the forces operating in Côte d'Ivoire into a single force, UNOCI, under a single command, that of the United Nations, can maintain the impetus achieved by President Mbeki's mediation.

I should like to take this opportunity to reiterate to you as well as to all the members of the Council the gratitude of the Ivorian people and Government for the tireless efforts by the Council in the search for a peaceful solution to the crisis that my country has been undergoing for almost three years now.

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I should be grateful if you would take steps to have the text of this letter issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Philippe **Djangone-Bi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative